

## **Moran Announces Enrollment for Conservation Program**

### *USDA Sets CRP Sign-up for Early May*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the sign-up date for Kansans to enroll in the 2003 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will run from Monday, May 5, through Friday, May 20, 2003. Producers can sign up at local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) service centers across the state.

"CRP is important to Kansas producers, but critical to the preservation of our state's natural resources," Moran said. "By protecting topsoil from erosion, CRP land protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of our lakes, rivers, ponds and streams."

According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), each acre under CRP contract reduces erosion by an average of 19 tons of topsoil a year. By saving soil, CRP also improves water quality by keeping sediment out of streams and waterways. CRP is also important to wildlife as it preserves the habitat of threatened and endangered species.

Farmers and ranchers can voluntarily enter into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. As of March 1, almost 34 million acres were enrolled in this conservation program. In addition, enrollment is ongoing for CRP's continuous sign-up program. USDA has reserved 4.2 million

acres for the continuous sign-up program, which represents the most environmentally sensitive lands.

For more information, contact your local Farm Service Agency and NRCS offices.

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